

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
HELD
JANUARY 25, 2010**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Burns, M.D.
Donald E. Cole
Terry E. Langley
Sandra A. Morris
Justin D. Neal
Deirdre O'Brien
Susan Radovich

Frank E. Shelp, Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health
and Developmental Disabilities

BOARD MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED (2)

Dr. Mary Burns called the meeting to order at 1:05pm and welcomed all Board members and guests to the meeting. The Minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting was unanimously approved.

Dr. Burns welcomed Sandra A. Morris, the newly appointed member to the DBH Board. Ms. Morris was sworn in by Carolyn Frazier, Legal Counsel for the Department.

A Motion was made by Terry E. Langley and duly seconded by Justin Neal to approve the Resolution/Transfer of Real Property. This Resolution transfers custody of approximately 1,028.653 acres of real property in White County, Georgia from the custody of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Natural Resources. The Motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Commissioner's Report

Update on CRIPA/DOJ

Commissioner Frank E. Shelp reported that the Department of Justice visited Central State Hospital in November on a follow-up visit. DOJ has acknowledged progress in some areas and at the same time still complains that a number of things were not as they should be. The next visit by DOJ is scheduled for March at Northwest and Rome. Commissioner Shelp anticipates other activities or conversations between the Governor's Office and DOJ before the next visit by DOJ takes place.

FY10 Amended and FY11 Budgets

Commissioner Shelp noted that the FY10 Amended and FY11 budgets were presented to the joint Senate and House Appropriations Committee on November 21. There were questions from various senators and representatives but no specific comments or objections to the budget as proposed. Commissioner Shelp reported that there would be other budget presentations as the legislative session moves forward. Some highlights of the two budgets beyond our base budget is a \$20m amended request for FY10 and around \$50m for FY11. Some of the budget will be for electronic medical records and telemedicine, the second major piece is around training and processes. The bulk of our funding will go out into communities; about a 60/40 split between communities and hospitals. He noted that we need to review our current contracts and establish priorities and begin moving money within the existing budget in different directions and degrees to build a system of care.

Central State Hospital – Adult Mental Health Services

Commissioner Shelp reported that the Department of Justice in November 2009 had a monitoring visit to Central State Hospital and they had extensive criticism that ranged from personnel management and direct care by individuals to physical complaints. In looking at the Cook Building where adult mental health was provided, the census ran roughly between 90-100 patients. The building, as reported by Commissioner Shelp, was constructed in the middle of the 19th century and has had various modifications. The state realized that the building would cost over \$200,000, almost a quarter of a million dollars, just to replace the locks. This would in no way address the substantial condition of the building. The hospital was placed on indefinite diversion at that time. DBH called on other facilities, particularly the Augusta Hospital which was now under the leadership of the Medical College of Georgia as well as our facility in Columbus, Atlanta and Savannah.

Commissioner Shelp noted that over the next couple of months all four of these hospitals participated in one degree or another in temporarily supporting the diversion. Augusta, under its new leadership and program, after about six weeks felt they were in a position to permanently support the cachement area. The census at the Powell Building dropped and continued to drop and now is down in the 20's. There are no plans to reopen the Powell Building to admissions. The Cook Building has about 180 patients under forensic care. With the Powell Building not being used, clinical staff from that building may be reassigned to Cook. We still have two buildings that are used for people with developmental disabilities and we have the Craig Nursing Home Facility. They are all under Central State license and title.

The Craig Nursing Home is out of scope for our department's vision. Nursing homes are not core to our competency and the department's intent is to request information or proposal and solicit a private sector group that has nursing home as their core to consider taking over the facility and operating it.

Developmental Disabilities Waivers and Services

Beverly Rollins, Executive Director of Developmental Disabilities, reported that the Division of DD since July 2009 has developed three goals that drive its operations: *1) improve internal/external communications 2) increase community service capacity, 3) improve the quality and use of data and technology.* Ms. Rollins noted that effective December 31, 2009, the Division of DD discontinued the application process for new providers and will begin recruitment on July 1, 2010. The current provider application is going to be revised to better scrutinize

the competence of applicants wanting to serve Georgia's citizens. She also reported that the "Living Support Waiver" has been approved by CMS effective April 1, 2010 from \$380 to \$493 and they are presently working on the implementation plan.

Committee on DD Waivers and Services

Board Member Donald Cole reported that Justin Neal and Susan Radovich are members of the committee who will take a look at the DD Waivers and services. Three meetings and two conference calls have been held to address the waivers. Mr. Cole noted that the game plan is to form an advisory group made up of some providers, self directed parents and some family members who are receiving services. He would like to keep the group between 5-7 people to advise the committee and have asked for suggestions from board members. He also noted that he received about 15 suggestions and have made connections with some of them. He is asking members of the group to explain "what they see as changes to the DD community". The committee will make a report to the Board at the next meeting.

Physician Credentials Committee

No report by Dr. Mary Burns. She noted that according to the Board's Bylaws three physicians who are members of the Board will comprise the committee. The members are: *William McDonald, M.D., Donald Manning, M.D., and Mary Burns, M.D.* This committee will review any physician applying for a position in the state system. The Physician Credentials Subcommittee will meet prior to the next board meeting.

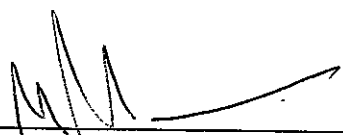
Public Comments

One question from public centered on the process involved as the waiver rules and regulations change. Another question concerned the status of the 70 patients left at Central State Hospital.

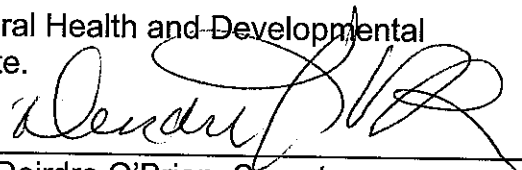
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be scheduled at a later date.



Mary D. Burns, Chair



Deirdre O'Brien, Secretary